

Adult Dental Benefit Changes

Question & Answer Sheet

Why the changes?	The 2003 State Legislature reduced the DSHS dental budget by 25%.
When do changes begin?	Friday, August 1, 2003
What is changed?	Crowns, root canals on back teeth, mouth guards, and some replacement dentures will <i>not</i> be covered. All dentures and partial dentures will require prior authorization. Your provider will know how to do this.
What dentures are covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full upper and lower complete dentures, ▪ Full upper and lower immediate dentures, ▪ Partial upper and lower plastic (resin) dentures, and ▪ Partial upper and lower cast-metal dentures.
What dentures <i>cannot</i> be replaced?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plastic (resin) partial dentures of any kind, and ▪ Full upper and lower immediate dentures.
What dentures can be replaced?	Replacements for full upper or lower complete dentures and partial upper and lower cast-metal dentures are allowed <i>once in a ten-year period</i> .
What do you still cover?	Adult dental still covers check-ups and exams, cleanings, pain relief, fillings, extractions (pulling teeth), root canals on front teeth, full and partial dentures, and any related services like x-rays.
What if my dentist is in the middle of a treatment?	Treatment that began <i>before</i> August 1 and continues <i>after</i> August 1 will be reviewed by MAA on a case-by-case basis.
What do I have to do to have my case reviewed?	Your dentist needs to send us a request in writing before August 29, 2003. These requests need documentation explaining what your medical (clinical) need is and why the treatment could not be completed by July 31.
What is the mailing address for the review?	Medical Assistance Administration PMAS – Dental Program PO Box 45506 Olympia WA 98504-5506
Is children's dental coverage affected?	No, the changes are to adult dental only.
What age is an adult?	Adults are age 21 and older. Children are up through age 20.
What if I want dental services that are not covered?	You will have to pay for any dental services you get that are not covered by MAA.